



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

UM12/0113

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SUITE 125
BIRMINGHAM AL 35242

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/162,563	09/29/98	016	WELCH, G	3741 01/13/00
First Named Applicant	DOORN. 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.			

TITLE OF INVENTION
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SEPARATING FOREIGN MATTER FROM FIBROUS MATERIAL

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
3 46-41	019-202.000	686	UTILITY	YES	\$605.00	04/13/00

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
09/162,563

Applicant(s)
Van Doorn et al.

Examiner
Gary L. Welch

Group Art Unit
3741



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 10/28/99

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11 and 25-29

☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____

☒ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on Oct 28, 1999, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not disclose nor suggest a fiber cleaning apparatus in which fiber tufts are pneumatically conveyed into the apparatus in a high speed air stream commingled with foreign matter having a revolving cleaning cylinder with teeth on the periphery of the cylinder, an air duct surrounding the air stream and controlling the fiber tufts commingled with the foreign matter, the air duct terminating adjacent the surface of the revolving cylinder to deliver the fiber tufts directly to the teeth of the revolving cleaning cylinder where the air stream engages the revolving cleaning cylinder at conveying velocities and fiber-to-air mass ratios sufficient to prevent agglomeration of the individual fiber tufts being pneumatically conveyed thereon, separating means located at the terminal of said air duct at the surface of the revolving cleaning cylinder to substantially completely separate the conveying air from the desirable fiber tufts as the desirable fiber tufts are substantially completely delivered onto the teeth of the revolving cleaning cylinder without allowing the individual fiber tufts to agglomerate and means adjacent the periphery of the revolving cleaning cylinder to cause the foreign matter to be separated from the fiber tufts.

More specifically, the prior art (U.S. Patent 2,948,022 to Day) does not disclose an air duct surrounding the air stream where the air duct terminates adjacent to the surface of a revolving cleaning cylinder nor an air stream delivering fiber tufts directly onto a revolving cleaning cylinder. The air stream of Day is disposed by the combination of a condenser and air

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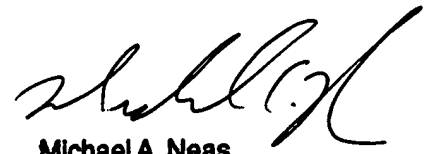
exhaust. Also, the fiber tufts, in the form of a fiber batt, are transferred to a carding cylinder from the condenser via the saw tooth clothing of the carding cylinder.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary Welch whose telephone number is (703) 305-0451. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert , can be reached on (703) 305-1025.

glw

January 10, 2000



Michael A. Neas
Primary Examiner